AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 to 9. (Cancelled)

10. (New) A piezoelectric transformer comprising:

ceramic layers comprising a hard piezoelectric material; and

an electrode layer comprising copper, the electrode layer being disposed between the ceramic layers.

11. (New) The piezoelectric transformer of claim 10, wherein the hard piezoelectric material comprises ceramic green film containing a binder that is thermohydrolytically decomposable.

12. (New) The piezoelectric transformer of claim 11, wherein the binder comprises a polyurethane dispersion.

13. (New) The piezoelectric transformer of claim 10, wherein the hard piezoelectric material includes a general composition of $Pb(Zr_xTi_{1-x})O_3$, wherein part of Zr or Ti is replaced by a low-valence cation having an oxidation level 1+ or 2+.

14. (New) The piezoelectric transformer of claim 10, wherein the hard piezoelectric material includes a general composition of $Pb(Zr_xTi_{1-x})O_3$, wherein part of Pb is replaced by a low-valence cation having an oxidation level 1+.

15. (New) The piezoelectric transformer of claim 10, wherein the hard piezoelectric material has a general composition of $Pb[(Zr_xTi_{1-x})_{1-y}(Mn_{1/3}Nb_{2/3})_y]O_3$.

16. (New) The piezoelectric transformer of claim 10, wherein the electrode layer comprises a screen-printed electrode layer.

17. (New) A method of producing a piezoelectric transformer comprised of (i) ceramic layers comprising a hard piezoelectric material, and (ii) an electrode layer comprising copper, the electrode layer being disposed between the ceramic layers, wherein the method comprises:

sintering the hard piezoelectric ceramic in an inert atmosphere.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the ceramic is sintered at a temperature that is below the melting point of copper.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the hard piezoelectric material comprises ceramic green film containing a binder that is thermohydrolytically

decomposable.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the binder comprises a polyurethane dispersion.

21. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the hard piezoelectric material has a general composition of $Pb(Zr_xTi_{1-x})O_3$, wherein part of Zr or Ti is replaced by a low-valence cation having an oxidation level 1+ or 2+.

22. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the hard piezoelectric material has a general composition of $Pb(Zr_xTi_{1-x})O_3$, wherein part of Pb is replaced by a low-valence cation having an oxidation level 1+.

23. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the hard piezoelectric material has a general composition of $Pb[(Zr_xTi_{1-x})_{1-y}(Mn_{1/3}Nb_{2/3})_y]O_3$.

24. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the electrode layer comprises a screen-printed electrode layer.

25. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein sintering occurs at a temperature of about 1000°C.

26. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the electrode layer contains no precious metal.

27. (New) An AC/DC converter comprising:

a piezoelectric transformer comprising:

ceramic layers comprising a hard piezoelectric material, the hard piezoelectric material having a general composition of $Pb[(Zr_xTi_{1-x})_{1-y}(Mn_{1/3}Nb_{2/3})_y]O_3$; and

an electrode layer comprising copper, the electrode layer being disposed between the ceramic layers;

wherein the electrode layer does not include substantial amounts of silver, palladium, or platinum.

28. (New) The AC/DC converter of claim 27, further comprising multiple electrode layers, each of the multiple electrode layers being between ceramic layers, each of the multiple electrode layers comprising copper and not including substantial amounts of silver, palladium, or platinum.

29. (New) The AC/DC converter of claim 27, wherein the hard piezoelectric material has a general composition of $Pb[(Zr_xTi_{1-x})_{1-y}(Mn_{1/3}Nb_{2/3})_y]O_3$.

30. (New) The AC/DC converter of claim 27, wherein the electrode layer comprises a screen-printed electrode layer.